

# Early Intervention

Services for Family's and Children

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CFC #15

# What is Early Intervention

*Early Intervention is a statewide program that provides supports and services for families to help their children under age 3 meet developmental milestones.*

# IDHS Office Locator

- There are 25 offices located throughout Illinois.
- Each office services specific counties/zip codes.
- This link will take you to the office locaters by clicking on county you are seeking services for.

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&OfficeType=4&County=>

# What are Early Intervention Services

- Physical-how baby moves
- Cognitive-how baby learns
- Communication-how baby lets you know their needs
- Social-Emotional-how baby engages/shows feelings
- Adaptive-how baby uses new skills
- Audiological/Nutritional

# EI Referral

**Anyone can refer a child to early intervention—parents, physicians, other health care providers, childcare providers, social service agencies, early learning programs, etc. Once a referral is made, it is up to the family to decide whether they want to participate.**

# Determining Eligibility

- Service Coordinator will reach out to discuss concerns/paperwork
- Meet with service providers to evaluate your child to determine eligibility\*.
- If eligible you will work with team to develop a plan, IFSP(Individualized Family Service Plan.)

## **\*Eligibility**

- Under 36 months
- Physicians' diagnosis of physical/mental condition that causes developmental delay
  - Identifiable delay of 30%
    - At risk for substantial delay due to certain factors
  - Blood lead level greater or equal to 5 micrograms per deciliter

# Team Members

## Service Coordinator

- Point of contact for EI
- Coordinates evaluations to determine eligibility for services
- Helps families understand their role and legal rights in EI
- Assist team with development of IFSP
- Monthly contact with family
- Maintains case/services
- Transition out of EI

- **Parents**

Partners with the professionals in EI program to help their child have the best start.

- **Multidisciplinary Team**

Can be one or more of the following:

Developmental Therapist

Physical Therapist

Occupational Therapist

Speech Therapist

Social worker/psy

Nutritionist

Interpreter

Hearing or vision specialist

# EI Providers

All providers in Early Intervention are EI credentialed, this means that they have met the state's training and educational requirements for working with young children between birth and age 3 and their families. All providers are aware of the principles, rules and regulations of EI. All providers are first trained in their area of specialty and then go on to become EI credentialed providers.

For more information on the qualifications for EI providers go to [www.wiu.edu/Providerconncetions](http://www.wiu.edu/Providerconncetions)



# EI Terms

## Assessments/Evaluations

Formal-determine eligibility

Informal-ongoing

## Developmental Age

Age child demonstrates various skills

## Developmental Delay

Child who is not gaining new skills typical for age or is showing inappropriate behaviors for age

## Domains

Five main areas of development

## Functional Outcomes

What families want to see happen with their child as a result of EI

## Informed Consent

Families acknowledge they have been informed and sign paper work

## Natural Environment

Home and community settings in which children and families would participate

## Transition

Process for moving children who have or are at risk for delay between programs.

## • Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

A written early intervention plan developed and implemented by the child's parents and a multidisciplinary EI team. It is based on the child's evaluation and the concerns, priorities, and resources you identify. It tells how the EI team will work together to address those needs.

- It is a family centered plan-family is an important member of the team.
- Functional Outcomes-These describe ways that EI can benefit the family and child.  
*(We want "S" to use gestures, signs, or words during daily routines to communicate her needs and reduce the number of tantrums)*
- *Outcome statements describe changes and benefits that the family want to see*
- *Family can also identify outcomes that consider both their child's and family's needs.*  
*(This might include identifying resources that support the ability for family to care for the child)*
- The IFSP also identifies the role and responsibilities of everyone involved.

# What does the signature on the IFSP mean?

Once a family signs the IFSP they indicate their agreement with the plan, a parent can at any time ask for changes and share their concerns. They can accept or refuse any of the services listed on the plan and services can be stopped at any time.

# Services

- EI is a parent voluntary program
- Parent choice for provider selection (can be limited based on availability, insurance, and needs of the child)
- Parent participates in therapy sessions
- Reach out to supports in place both in CFC and the community (parent liaisons, libraries, park districts, agencies with support groups in place)
- Communication is a two-way street (monthly contacts, call if concerns, speak to providers always ask questions)

# What Does EI Cost?

- Free evaluations determine eligibility
- Coordinating services for eligible child and family is always free
- Early Intervention supports and services are paid by the EI program, private insurance, health, insurance or public insurances.
- *Family fee is being waived at this time through Dec. 31, 2022*
- Proof of immigration status is not required.

# Transition

Early Intervention ends when parents voluntarily withdraw, child has met their goals as outlined in the IFSP plan, or they are turning 3 and will be transitioned to their home school district.

# EI vs. School Based

## PART C

- Birth-3
- Child find birth-3
- Initiates transition
- State Interagency Coord. Council
- Sliding fees/insurance
- IFSP

## PART B

- Ages 3-21
- Child find birth-21
- Participates in transition
- State Advisory Council
- Free and appropriate educ.
- IEP

Due process/Procedural safe guards  
IDEA: Individuals with disabilities education act

Question/Answer  
Service Inc of Illinois  
Child & Family Connections #15  
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